

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO GEORGIA'S  
RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR WATER QUALITY CONTROL  
CHAPTER 391-3-6**

**TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:**

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Environmental Protection Division (hereinafter, "EPD") of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources proposes Amendments to the Georgia Water Use Classifications and Water Quality Standards, Chapter 391-3-6-.03 (hereinafter, "the proposed Water Rule Amendments"). The Director of EPD certifies that amendment of Rule 391-3-6-.03 is required to comply with 40CFR131.20 that requires States review and revise water quality standards from time to time, but at least once every three years and 40 CFR 131.4 to exercise authority delegated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to implement Section 303, 304(a), and 307(a) of the Clean Water Act. The proposed rule amendment includes revision to Rule 391-3-6-.03 **"Water Use Classifications and Water Quality Standards,"** as follows:

**Rule 391-3-6-.03(5) General Criteria for All Waters** Based on the latest EPA guidance remove language from footnote three of sub-paragraph (e)(ii) in reference to the minimum hardness value in the calculation of aquatic life criteria for metals;

**Rule 391-3-6-.03(5) General Criteria for All Waters** Update the numeric human health priority pollutant criteria for 2,3,7,8 tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin (TCDD) based on latest EPA guidance in sub-paragraph (e)(vi);

**Rule 391-3-6-.03(6) Specific Criteria for Classified Water Usage** Revise sub-paragraph (c)(iii) to clarify language where specific bacteria criteria apply along the coast where shellfish may be harvested. The reference manual for the bacteria criteria for shellfish growing areas will also be updated;

**Rule 391-3-6-.03(14) Specific Water Use Classifications** Update and amend the designated uses of waterbodies throughout the State;

**Rule 391-3-6-.03(16) Waters Generally Supporting Shellfish** Clarify language that the waters listed here either support or have the potential to support shellfish, but this does not necessarily mean that it is legal to harvest shellfish from these areas;

**Rule 391-3-6-.03(17) Specific Criteria for Lakes and Major Lake Tributaries** Revise Lake Allatoona chlorophyll *a*, total nitrogen, and total phosphorus loading criteria in sub-paragraphs (d)(i), (d)(iii), and (d)(viii), respectively, based on recent data and modeling of nutrient dynamics in the watershed;

Correct various typographical, grammatical and formatting errors, including alphabetizing designated uses by river basin and trout stream by county.

This notice, together with an exact copy of the proposed rule Amendments and a synopsis of and statement of rationale for the rule revisions, is being provided to all persons who have requested in writing that they be placed on a notification list. These documents and supporting information, such as "*Lake Allatoona Model Scenarios Description and Results for Nutrient Criteria Revisions*" may be viewed at <http://www.gaepd.org/environet/6> or during normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354. Copies may also be requested by contacting the Watershed Protection Branch at 404/675-6236 or the Environmental Protection Division Director's Office at 1-888-373-5947.

To provide the public an opportunity to comment upon and provide input into the proposed rule Amendments, three public hearings will be held at the following dates/locations:

**January 27, 2011** (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm) City of Cartersville, City Hall Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, 10 North Public Square, Cartersville, GA 30120

**January 28, 2011** (10:00 am – 12:00 pm) Environmental Protection Division Training Center, Atlanta Tradeport, 4244 International Parkway, Suite 114, Atlanta, Georgia 30354

**January 31, 2011** (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm) Coastal Electrical Membership Cooperative, 1265 South Coastal Hwy (US Hwy 17), Midway, GA 31320

At the public hearings anyone may present data, make a statement, comment or offer a viewpoint or argument either orally or in writing. Lengthy statements or statements of a considerable technical or economic nature, as well as previously recorded messages, must be submitted in writing for the official record. Oral statements should be concise.

Written comments are welcomed. To ensure their inclusion in EPD's package for the Board of Natural Resources, written comments should be received on or before February 9, 2011. Comments may be sent via regular mail addressed to: Elizabeth Booth, Manager, Watershed Planning and Monitoring Program, 4220 International Parkway – Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354. Comments may be emailed to [EPDComments@dnr.state.ga.us](mailto:EPDComments@dnr.state.ga.us). If you choose to e-mail your comments, please be sure to include the words "Triennial Review" somewhere in the subject line to help ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the correct staff.

The proposed rule amendment will be considered for adoption by the Board of Natural Resources at its meeting on March 23, 2011 at 9:00 a.m., in the DNR Board Room, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, S.E., Suite 1252, East Floyd Tower, Atlanta, Georgia 30334. The meeting is open to the public. The proposed rule amendment is proposed for adoption pursuant to authority contained in the Georgia Water Quality Control Act, O.C.G.A. § 12-5-20, et seq.

For further information, please contact Elizabeth Booth at (404) 675-6236.